



**REPORT OF THE
NCAA DIVISION II MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS COMMITTEE
JUNE 22-23, 2026, MEETING**

ACTION ITEMS.

- None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.

1. **Review agenda and meeting schedule.** The committee approved the agenda and meeting schedule.
2. **Approval of 2025 committee meeting report.** The committee approved the 2025 meeting report as submitted.
3. **Governance updates.** Ryan Jones, Director of Division II governance and policy, joined the meeting to provide Division II governance updates and discuss ongoing initiatives impacting championship administration. Discussion included the proposed age-based eligibility model, legislative priorities, live scoring and score-reporting improvements, and efforts to enhance the integration of championship results and data visibility on NCAA.com.
4. **Coaches Connection update.** The committee discussed the Coaches Connection program with Pam Arpe, coaches connection liaison, noting how the program enhances communication with coaches across Division II. Recommendations focused on increasing awareness of the 2028 championship format changes, improving messaging regarding NCAA Power Index implementation, and using the Coaches Connection network to provide consistent and timely information to the membership.
5. **Legislation updates.** The committee met with Megan Villanueva, assistant director of Division II governance and member services, to discuss Division II governance updates. The conversation focused on the proposed age-based eligibility model, potential implementation timelines, impacts on current and future student-athletes, and next steps as the proposal moves through Division II governance structure.
6. **Intercollegiate Tennis Association updates.** The committee met with David Mullins, chief executive officer of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association, to receive updates on ITA initiatives. Topics included the Match Tennis live-scoring platform, score reporting and visibility on NCAA.com, Division II promotional efforts, and ongoing discussions surrounding the sustainability of collegiate tennis.
7. **Playing rules updates.** The committee met with Anthony Montero, ITA director of officiating and coach education, and NCAA staff members Jay Fitzwater and Autumn Monaghan to review the 2026-27 ITA playing rules proposals and NCAA officiating data. Discussion centered on proposed rule changes related to doubles lineup gamesmanship, automatic defaults, timeouts to address bleeding, ball changes, and the overrule process, as well as a review of officiating and misconduct trends across NCAA tennis.

8. Review of 2026 championship.

- a. **Selection criteria and process.** The committee reviewed the 2026 NCAA Division II Men's and Women's Tennis Championships selection criteria and process, including regional rankings, championship selections, and seeding. Discussion focused on feedback from coaches regarding the selection process, regional comparisons, and coach understanding of how selections and seeding decisions are made. The committee also discussed the importance of continued communication and education surrounding championship selections as the transition to NPI in 2027 and the new championship format in 2028 are implemented.
- b. **Preliminary rounds.** The committee reviewed the 2026 regional rounds and discussed feedback from the host sites and participating teams. A continued area of concern is identifying host sites in the East and Atlantic regions that meet NCAA hosting requirements. The committee discussed facility and court quality concerns, the limited number of institutions currently positioned to host, and the importance of ensuring host sites accurately reflect their facilities during the bid process. The committee also continued discussing regional match start times and noted that inconsistencies across sites can negatively impact student-athlete recovery and competitive equity. While recommended match times are provided, hosts often adjust schedules based on facility availability, weather, academic calendars, and other local constraints. For the new championship format in 2028, the committee emphasized the importance of site representatives being present at championship sites to verify facilities meet NCAA hosting requirements and identify potential issues prior to competition. The committee also discussed requiring hosts to provide more current facility photos as part of the bid process to assist in evaluating whether sites meet hosting requirements and to help ensure a consistent championship experience across all regions.
- c. **Web stream.** The committee reviewed championship streaming, where 12 cameras were used to provide coverage of both semifinal rounds and the championship matches. This marked the first year that both semifinal matches were streamed simultaneously, providing expanded coverage and increased visibility for participating institutions and student-athletes. Discussion focused on the overall streaming experience, including camera coverage, reliability, and opportunities to enhance the viewing experience in future years. The committee noted receiving feedback from a member institution regarding issues with the PlaySight court streams, which reportedly experienced freezing and connectivity issues during portions of the event. Committee members noted that the concerns were specific to the individual PlaySight court streams and not the wraparound championship coverage available on NCAA.com. The committee will continue working with its streaming partners to improve the consistency and reliability of championship coverage moving forward.
- d. **Facility and host.** The committee reviewed the City of Surprise, Surprise Tennis & Racquet Complex, and the PacWest Conference as hosts of the championship. Overall, the committee felt the championship was successfully conducted and appreciated the partnership and support provided by both the City of Surprise and the PacWest Conference throughout the event. The

committee acknowledged staffing changes within both the City of Surprise and the PacWest Conference leading into the championship, which required additional coordination during the planning process. Despite those challenges, host staff were responsive and worked collaboratively to address issues as they arose. The committee agreed that hosting the championship at the Surprise Tennis & Racquet Complex has significantly enhanced the student-athlete experience compared to previous years. Members noted that the facility provides a more championship-level atmosphere, improved amenities, and a stronger overall presentation of the event. The committee also discussed opportunities to continue improving team hospitality areas, shade and recovery spaces, signage, hotel accommodations, and other operational logistics as planning begins for the 2027 championships.

- e. **Lodging.** The committee reviewed lodging accommodations and feedback from participating teams. Overall, lodging operations were successful, although a small number of institutions raised concerns regarding hotel quality and whether certain properties met team expectations. The committee noted that one institution has consistently provided similar feedback in previous years. The committee discussed challenges encountered when securing hotel inventory due to the Big 12 Baseball Championship taking place in the Surprise area during the same timeframe, which significantly reduced the number of available hotel options. The committee also noted concerns regarding hotel rates in the area, with some properties exceeding rates considered reasonable for participating teams. Additional challenges arose during contract negotiations, as several hotels were hesitant to commit room blocks without guaranteed room nights. Unlike the Big 12 Baseball Championship, which guarantees room nights regardless of team advancement, the Division II Tennis Championship cannot provide the same assurances due to the championship format. The committee will continue working with NCAA staff, the City of Surprise, and local hotel partners to identify lodging options that provide an appropriate balance between cost, quality, and proximity to the championship venue for the 2027 championship.
- f. **Officiating.** The committee reviewed officiating and feedback from the championship. Overall, officials performed well throughout the event, and any match administration issues were addressed quickly. Discussion focused on equipment and operational needs, including radios for all officials, additional umpire chairs since some were broken that were rented, and solutions to address challenges caused by high temperatures affecting cell phones that officials use to score matches. The committee also discussed potentially using additional local officials in future years and opportunities to improve operational efficiencies while maintaining a high level of officiating throughout the championship.

9. 2027 NCAA Division II Men's and Women's Tennis Championships.

- a. **Lodging.** The committee reviewed lodging plans for the 2027 championship. Securing hotel rooms continues to be a challenge due to the Big 12 Baseball Championship taking place during the same time, with many hotels prioritizing events that can guarantee room nights. As a result, the committee may need to use hotels outside of Surprise, which could require participating teams to travel up to 30 minutes to the championship venue.

- b. Schedule of events.** The committee reviewed the championship schedule and supported adjusting match start times to begin one hour later each morning. Members felt the change would enhance the student-athlete experience by providing additional recovery time and creating a more manageable daily schedule. The committee also noted the uncertainty surrounding hotel availability within the City of Surprise for 2027 and discussed the likelihood that some participating teams may need to be housed farther from the championship venue. The proposed schedule adjustment would help alleviate potential travel concerns and provide additional flexibility for teams traveling to the facility each day.
 - c. Enhancing championship visibility and fan engagement.** The committee discussed opportunities to enhance the championship experience for 2027 and will continue working with the PacWest Conference and the City of Surprise on potential improvements. Members noted the limited spectator attendance during the championship matches and discussed increasing local marketing and promotional efforts to raise awareness of the championship within the community. The committee also encouraged the PacWest Conference to take a larger role in publicizing the event and promoting championship activities leading up to and during the championship. Additionally, the committee discussed possibly moving championship match times to the evening in an effort to increase visibility and attendance. The committee requested feedback from the Division II Tennis Coaches Connection regarding evening championship match times and the potential impact on the student-athlete experience, attendance, and overall championship atmosphere.
 - d. Championship banquet.** The committee reviewed plans for the 2027 championship banquet and supported returning to the same venue, noting the positive feedback from participating teams and student-athletes. Discussion focused on improving food service and traffic flow through the buffet lines, as well as exploring possibly having venue staff serve the food rather than a self-serve buffet to help ensure all attendees receive a meal without having to wait for food or running out of food.
 - e. Community engagement.** The committee discussed opportunities to enhance community engagement activities and increase participation among teams, including identifying activities that are more accessible within the championship schedule and improving communication of those opportunities to participate in institutions. The committee noted that only one institution participated in the 2026 championship community service initiative and expressed a desire to increase participation in 2027. Additionally, the committee discussed exploring community service partnerships beyond the Boys & Girls Club to provide participating institutions with a range of meaningful engagement opportunities within host communities.
- 10. NCAA Power Index.** The committee met with Tim Danehy to continue working to implement the NPI. The committee worked with Danehy to further evaluate and set the sport-specific dials that will be used for tennis and discussed the potential impact the dials may have on rankings, regional comparisons, and championship selections. The committee will continue refining the tennis-specific dials as part of the implementation process ahead of the 2027 championship season.

- 11. Reduction in championship field.** The committee continued discussing the 2028 championship format changes and worked on communicating to the membership regarding the approved bracket reduction and format modifications, including an overview of the transition to four super regionals, adjustments to the national championship structure, hosting requirements for super regional sites, and scheduling modifications associated with the new format. The committee felt it was important to proactively educate coaches and administrators on the upcoming changes, including championship access, hosting expectations, advancement procedures, and the selection of the Tuscaloosa Tennis Center as the site of the 2028 national championships. The committee will continue using multiple communication channels to ensure the membership is informed and prepared for the transition beginning with the 2027-28 academic year.
- 12. Committee chair.** The committee appointed Spencer Shamo of Dominican University of California as the committee chair for 2026-27.

Committee Chair: Josh Cobble, Cameron University, Lone Star Conference

Staff Liaison(s): Lindsey Eldred, Championships and Alliances

Division II Men's and Women's Tennis Committee June 22-23, 2026, Meeting	
Attendees:	
Jaime Browne, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association.	
Jon Coles, Grand Valley State University.	
Josh Cobble, Cameron University.	
Spencer Shamo, Dominican University of California.	
Madeline Simmons, Missouri Western State University.	
Adrienne Singletary, Coker University.	
Christi Wade, University of West Alabama.	
Stefanie Whitby, Wilmington University (Delaware).	
Absentees:	
None.	
Guests:	
Pam Arpe (Coaches Connection), Tim Danehy, Anthony Montero (Intercollegiate Tennis Association), David Mullins (Intercollegiate Tennis Association).	
NCAA Staff Liaison in Attendance:	
Lindsey Eldred, Megan Villanueva.	
Other NCAA Staff Members in Attendance:	
Jay Fitzwater, Karen Kirsch, Ryan Jones, Autumn Monaghan, Dallas Woods.	

